

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A gaming machine comprising:
a cabinet;
a plurality of reels rotatably supported in the cabinet, each of the reels having a cylindrical member with an outer periphery, on which symbols are formed;
a drive motor for rotating each of the reels;
a rotation control circuit unit for controlling rotation of the drive motor;
a drive member rotatably supported ~~while~~ contacting ~~to~~ the outer periphery of the cylindrical member at a side edge of the reel; and
a follower rotatably supported ~~while~~ contacting ~~to~~ an inner surface of the cylindrical member at a position corresponding to a contact portion where the drive member ~~is contacted to~~ contacts the outer periphery of the cylindrical member;
wherein the drive member is connected to the drive motor, and
wherein the cylindrical member is ~~disposed~~ nipped between the drive member and the follower, and each of the reels is rotated together with the drive member and the follower when the drive member is rotated by the drive motor.
2. (Original) The gaming machine according to claim 1, wherein the drive motor is arranged at an upper position of each of the reels.
3. (Original) The gaming machine according to claim 2, wherein the rotation control circuit unit is arranged with the drive motor at an upper position of the reel.

4. (Original) The gaming machine according to claim 3, further comprising a main control circuit unit for controlling an entire game conducted by the reels,
wherein the drive motor, the rotation control circuit unit and the main control circuit unit are closely arranged with each other.
5. (Original) The gaming machine according to claim 4, wherein the drive member, the follower and the drive motor are suspended to the rotation control circuit unit through a suspending member.
6. (Original) The gaming machine according to claim 1, wherein the drive member comprises a drive roller connected to a drive shaft of the drive motor, and
wherein the follower comprises a following roller.
7. (Original) The gaming machine according to claim 1, wherein the drive member comprises a drive pinion connected to a drive shaft of the drive motor, and
wherein the follower comprises a following pinion.
8. (Currently Amended) A gaming machine comprising:
a cabinet;
a plurality of reels rotatably supported in the cabinet, each of the reels having a cylindrical member with an outer periphery, on which symbols are formed;

a drive roller rotatably supported while contacting to the outer periphery of the cylindrical member at a side edge of the reel;

a following roller rotatably supported while contacting to an inner surface of the cylindrical member at a position corresponding to a contact portion where the drive roller ~~is contacted to~~ contacts the outer periphery of the cylindrical member;

a drive motor for rotating each of the drive rollers;

a rotation control circuit unit for controlling rotation of the drive motor; and

a main control circuit unit for controlling an entire game conducted by the reels;

wherein the cylindrical member is ~~disposed~~ nipped between the drive roller and the following roller, and each of the reels is rotated together with the drive roller and the following roller when the drive roller is rotated by the drive motor; and

wherein the drive motor, the rotation control circuit unit and the main control circuit unit are arranged out of the reel in a state that the drive motor, the rotation control circuit unit and the main control circuit unit are closely arranged with each other.

9. (New) A gaming machine comprising:

a cabinet;

a plurality of reels rotatably supported around a rotational shaft arranged in the cabinet, each of the reels having a cylindrical member with an outer periphery, on which symbols are formed;

a drive motor for rotating each of the reels;

a rotation control circuit unit for controlling rotation of the drive motor, a first suspending member being mounted under the rotation control circuit unit and the drive motor being supported to the first suspending member;

a drive member connected to a drive shaft of the drive motor, the drive shaft being supported to a second suspending member mounted under the rotation control circuit unit contacting the outer periphery of the cylindrical member at a side edge of the reel; and

a follower rotatably supported through a support shaft which is arranged at a lower portion of the second suspending member and contacting an inner surface of the cylindrical member at a position corresponding to a contact portion where the drive member contacts the outer periphery of the cylindrical member;

wherein the cylindrical member is nipped between the drive member and the follower, and each of the reels is rotated around the rotational shaft together with the drive member and the follower when the drive member is rotated by the drive motor.

10. (New) The gaming machine according to claim 9, further comprising:

a plurality of display windows formed in front of the cabinet, each of the display windows corresponding to each of the reels and the symbols of the reel being seen through the display window; and

a reel light arranged within the reel, the reel light illuminating the symbols of the reel from an inner side of the reel so that the symbols are clearly seen and recognized.

11. (New) The gaming machine according to claim 9, further comprising:
spokes arranged between the cylindrical member and the rotational shaft.